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to other scientific establishments throughout the world. I have given my best endeavors to these ends for twenty-three years.

I am, gentlemen,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

EDWARD S. HOLDEN."

LIST OF RECORDED EARTHQUAKES ON THE PACIFIC COAST,
1769-1897, BY EDWARD S. HOLDEN; ILLUSTRATED.

The Smithsonian Institution is about to print, in its *Miscellaneous Contributions*, a work with the above title. The data are derived from a similar list of recorded earthquakes, 1769-1888 (with a very considerable number of additions and a few corrections), which was issued by the University of California in 1888, and from the annual publications of the Lick Observatory (printed in the *American Journal of Science*, the *Publications* of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the *Bulletins* of the U. S. Geological Survey) since that date. The annual records referred to have been compiled by Messrs. HOLDEN, KEELER, and PERRINE from observations at Mt. Hamilton, and from miscellaneous reports of earthquake shocks. They have been thoroughly sifted and revised in the present work, which is believed to contain all trustworthy data on the subject of Pacific Coast earthquakes since 1769. E. S. H.

MT. HAMILTON, September 1, 1897.

MEASURES OF THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, AND OF β 883.

I have obtained measures of the companion of *Sirius* on two nights, September 23d and October 2d. On the former date the companion was readily seen for at least ten minutes after sunrise.

The measures are:--

	θ_0	ρ_0	Weight.
1897.731	175 ⁰ .9	3'' .92	5
1897.756	174 .4	4 .04	3

Another binary star of considerable interest is β 883. It was discovered by Mr. BURNHAM in 1879, and was soon found to be in rapid motion. Dr. SEE (*Monthly Notices R. A. S.*, June, 1897), in a recent investigation, found the period to be only five and a half years. If this result is even approximately correct, the star is by far the most rapid visible binary known.

I have secured three measures recently with the 36-inch

telescope. The two components are of nearly the same magnitude, and the angles may need to be increased by 180° .

	θ_0	ρ_0	Weight.
1897.715	$30^\circ.6$	$0''.23$	3
.731	29 .9	0 .26	4
.797	28 .4	0 .28	2

R. G. AITKEN.

October 23, 1897.

THE *LEONIDS* IN 1897.

The *Leonids* were watched for from November 13th to November 18th, inclusive, but no unusual shower was seen. In fact, the displays were very meager, the greatest number being observed on the morning of November 17th, when nine *Leonids* were counted from $3^h 40^m$ to $4^h 30^m$ A.M. As the Moon was in this region of the heavens and near the time of last quarter, the conditions were not the best.

C. D. P.

COMETS DUE TO RETURN IN 1898.

In the year 1898 there are no less than five periodic comets due to return to perihelion:—

Winnecke, March 20th; Encke, May 26th; Swift, 1889 VI; Wolf, June 30th; Temple's first periodic comet.

Of these comets, Winnecke's, Encke's, and Wolf's are well determined and should be found, except, perhaps, Wolf's which is so situated that it does not become very bright—only about two and a half times as bright as at the time of its rediscovery in 1891, when Professor BARNARD estimated it at thirteen and a half magnitude.

In the case of Swift's comet, there is an uncertainty of 0.9 year in the time of perihelion passage, which precludes any accurate prediction of its place, and hence renders impracticable any extended search with large telescopes. Those having small and moderate-sized telescopes will do well to devote some of their time to sweeping, with the chance of picking up this comet, and thereby save another from being added to the already long list of missing ones.

Temple's first periodic comet was observed at the returns of 1873 and 1879, subsequent to its discovery in 1867, but at the last two apparitions it was not seen. It is to be hoped that it may be rediscovered at the coming apparition.